

**EGYPT.**

**A Brilliant Egyptian Fete—Presence of Distinguished Guests—The Elite of Egypt Society—Investment of the Viceroys With Insignia of the Star of India by Lord Naga of Magdala.**

CAIRO, NOV. 28, 1897.

Egypt has recently been the scene of a series of brilliant fetes. On the 19th inst. a State ball given at the Palace of Ras-el-Tin in Alexandria. Invitations were issued in the name of "The Generalissimo," and the guests were the "Generalissimo's" first aide-de-camp of his Highness the Kedewi." The Pacha is now called, and were distributed with more sparing hand than has heretofore been usual on similar occasions; hence the eagerness to be possessed of the precious pasteboard was most intense. Extraordinary precautions were taken to prevent any persons from being of invitations; indeed the who were unable to attend the ball were requested to return their tickets before

possibility falling into improper hands. Several American travelers in Egypt were furnished with invitations, at the request of Mr. Hale, the American Consul General.

His Highness honored the ball with his presence for the first time since the year 1964. So excellent was his mood, his sudden postmonerment was so caused by the fact that he had not seen the 19th, on account of his indisposition; but he covered his health perfectly so as to be able to present the whole of a very prolonged evening.

The palace of Has-el-Tin stands on a promontory, the entrance of Alexandrian harbor. On arriving at the palace gates the gates is passed through a large hall which is cooled by a system of air conditioning through ante-rooms cooled by illuminated fountains, where they ascended the grand staircase, kept by the King's Palace Guard, and the King's Palace Guard, the Kedive or Viceroy, as it is more content to call him) was standing with his son, Prince Fouad, and Sherif Facha, his trusted minister. The ladies were introduced by ushers (young gentlemen selected from the royal household) who presented them to his Highness. He bowed as each lady made her entrance.

The guests proceeded directly to their apartments.

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self of this exclusiveness, and entering the general supper room he took his place at one of the tables arranged for the guests at the same time summoning to the table a very beautiful lady, as well as her husband and the gentleman on whose arm the lady appeared. The lady was sitting next to the American and his Prime Minister completed the little party of six at this table, and I need not tell you how jealous were the less favored of the extraordinary mark of preference accorded to the lady who so enjoyed the privilege of sitting by his Highness's side. I will not mention her name, but will tell your readers that she was a French noblewoman.

that she is of the great northern nation whose friendship for America is so many shudders in the race, and that she is a woman of the same nobility, and that she is worthy of any attention she may receive, most exalted circle of society.

An exhibition of fireworks upon a raft moored near the harbor, and the windows of the palace were said to have closed the entertainment at four o'clock in the morning, as it was not until four that the Viceroy retired; but the hereditary Prince remained in the palace until midnight, before many of the guests could persuade themselves to withdraw from the pleasure they were enjoying. Scarcely had we recovered from the excitement of the day, when the news of the approaching arrival of Lord Napier of Magdala, bringing

insignia of the Star of India with which to invest the Viceroy of Egypt, by order of her Majesty Queen Victoria. The Viceroy of Egypt arrived on the 25th inst. Lord Napier had been lodged in one of the Viceroy's palaces, whence he was conducted in a gorgeous state carriage, preceded by a long train of eunuchs, to the barracks situated in the town of Cairo to a place called the Abassieli, the edge of the desert, where the Viceroy maintained a sort of military camp. Lord Napier's carriage was followed by two or three British consuls, and a General and a considerable number of the British residents in Egypt. None of the members of consular body other than the British were present, they being the only Europeans who were invited. Arrived at the Abassieli, Lord Napier's

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The dinner was followed by a ball, attendeded about 100 persons, chiefly of the English community in Egypt, and thus the *Fete* was most brilliantly brought to a close.

The next day Lord Mayo, the new Governor General of India, arrived at Alexandria on his way to Egypt, and his entourage of 100 persons, with no connection with that of Lord Napier who, having left Egypt, was visiting the Suez Canal before sailing.

**INDIA.**

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**Railroad Enterprises in Central India**

The report of the directors of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railroad states that the amount received on consolidated stock, shares, debentures to the 30th of June last was £7,442,717, of which £101,914 was received in the half year. The total expenditure to the same period in England and India amounted to £7,256,706. The gross revenue receipts for the half year ended over the same million.

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s in the corresponding period of 1967 amounted  
to £252,066, as compared with £264,066, and showed  
a decrease of £12,010, of which £3,192 arose from the  
head of passengers, parcels, &c., and £8,818 from  
that of merchandise, live stock and miscellaneous  
traffic. We regret that the figures for 1968 are not  
available. It is noted, however, that there was  
an increase in the numbers carried of the first  
and second class of 692 and 6,194 respectively, but, owing  
partly to the reduction in the fares, the first class  
receipts showed a decrease of £298 and the  
second class an increase of only £697. The average  
passenger distance travelled by first class  
passengers showed a decrease from 72.74 in 1967

8,150 in 1908, which of course was also an element in the depression of the railroads. The same was true of the passenger traffic, both in numbers and receipts, no doubt attributable to the general depression, inactivity following upon the extraordinary inflation of the collapse of commercial speculation in Bonds in 1907, and the two or three years of the panic of 1907-1909 compared favorably, however, with that of the other Indian years, and the existing fact that the passenger mile practically increased from 1908 to 1910. The fall of prices of the principal merchandise traffic the falling of arose principally in cotton and grain. The half-year's receipts, the actually less in amount, had increased per train mile from 1908 to 1910, and the reduction in freight reduction which was effected in the train miles

the extent of 30,162 miles. The gross expense amounted to \$163,217, which was a reduction of \$2,971 on those of the corresponding period. The net revenue amounted to \$98,833, 104, 101, compared with \$198,178 sh. 4d. in the corresponding period of 1867. But from this was deducted \$27,600 as a special reserve for lending.

**THE HOOSAC TUNNEL CONTRACT.**

**The Work to Be Completed in Five Years.**  
(From the Boston Advertiser, Dec. 25.)

The contract to be completed in five years by Messrs. Walter & Francis Shanley for the completion of the Hoosac tunnel was signed yesterday. By

of this instrument the contractors agree to complete the tunnel in 18 months. The quarter miles of substantial railway track there is, rated at \$14,000 per mile, for \$4,500,000. They agree to begin operations at once with 600 men, and to advance the tunnel at the rate of 200 feet per month. They advance from the central shaft fourteen inches per day, to advance from the east and west at 250 feet per month. They advance from the central shaft to the base of the tunnel May 27, and thereafter to advance from faces the full-sized tunnel at the rate of 4,000 feet per year. At this rate of progress they would complete the enterprise in less than 18 months. The contractors are confident that they are allowed more time for the completion. They expect, however, to complete the tunnel in 18 months.

ever, to finish the underlating Two years within time prescribed by statute. The contractors security in \$600,000 for the completion of the work on the terms prescribed, by stipulating that they call for no money until the State engineer certifies that the work done at least than average rates exceed \$600,000. They also agree that twenty percent of the remuneration for the work done shall be reserved and paid on completion of the undertak